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Tender Exhortation,
IN THE
LOVE of CHRIST,
TO THE
YOUTH

Amongst the People called

QUAKERS:

Both Male and Female, whether they be
such as have been formerly Professors of
such as, through the Vibration of God,
and the Convictions of the Spirit of Truth,
are Gathered to our Holy Profession.

1. 3. 1. incline your Heart, and your Ears to me:
His Heart, and your Soul shall live; and I will make an ever-
lasting Covenant with you, even the sure Mercies of
David. Prov. 1: 10. My Son, if Sinners intice thee,
consent thou not. 2 Tim. 2: 22. Flee also youthful
lusts; But follow Righteousness, Faith, Charity, Peace,
and them that call on the Lord out of a pure Heart.
Rom. 2: 9. But unto them that are contentious, and do
not obey the Truth, but obey Unrighteousness; Indigna-
tion and Wrath; Tribulation and anguish upon every Soul
of Man that doeth Evil, of the first first, and also of
the Gentle.

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THE
GOVERNMENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES



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A Tender Exhortation, &c.

IT hath been weightily upon my Spirit, for some considerable time, in much Love and Tenderneſs, to impart ſomewhat unto you, of that Chriſtian Travel and Concern, which hath been upon my Soul, for your both preſent and eternal Welfare: And many times I have felt, as at this time, tender Breathings and Supplications to ſpring in my Heart to the Lord, that the Reaches of his pure divine Love might take hold upon your Minds; ſo as that your Hearts might be truly affected with it, and that you might retain it as your chiefeſt Treasuſe, and that it may have the Poſſeſſion of your Souls, ſo may you be enabled through the Help of Chriſt, who is the Truth, to ſhew forth out of a good Converſation the Praises of him, who hath called us out of Darkneſs into his marvellous Light, that we ſhould love, ſerve and obey him all the Days of our Lives; and be made Partakers of the Power and Glory of that Salvation, which he hath been graciously pleaſed to reveal and manifeſt in this his Goſpel and Evangelical Day, to the end that we might be gathered out of every perverſe and corrupt Way, unto him the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and learn of him who teacheth and eſtabliſheth all his in Righteouſneſs, and giveth them the bleſſed Fruit

thereof, which is Peace, as saith the holy Prophet, *Isa. 54. 13, 14.*

And, dear Children, my Love in the holy Truth floweth towards you at this time, and therein is my Spirit deeply ingaged, in a true Travel before the Lord, for your everlasting Welfare, and in order thereunto it is upon me, in the Heart melting Love and Power of Christ, to put you in mind of your Duty towards God in your tender Years; and therefore let it be considered, in a sober and religious Frame of Mind, how far you have put that great and necessary Advice of the Wise-Man (*Eccles. 12. 1.*) into Practice, when he said, *Remember now thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth, while the evil Days come not, &c.* In which Words are contained deep Counsel and Instructions: For be it considered, that in the time of Youth the Senses and Faculties are strong and vigorous, and therefore ought to be employed in truly Christian and religious Exercises, that thou mayst dedicate the Strength of thy Youth to the Service of (the Lord) thy Creator, who made thee (and all Mankind) *for a Purpose of his own Glory* therefore fly youthful Vanities, for they are pernicious and defile the Mind, and darken the Judgment: And the Designs of the grand Enemy of Truth, in drawing the Minds of young People into the Liking and Love of these things, as the *Lust of the Eye, the Lust of the Flesh, and the Pride of Life*; and to take Delight and Pleasure therein, is that he may thereby divert them from the very Thoughts of their latter End, lest that they should remember their Creator, and apply their Hearts to the

Fear of God, and Love to Religion; and lest that they should be taught of him, and be brought to a true Sense of their Duty, and come to see how they have neglected it, and thereby incurred his Displeasure against their Souls.

Oh! dear and tender Children, I therefore intreat you, in Bowels of tender Love, that you diligently take heed to that divine Principle of Light and Truth, which you have been educated under the Profession of, and prize your Privilege therein, by improving your Time and Talents to the Glory and Praise of the bountiful Giver, who is the all-wise Creator, the mighty God, and will require an Account of his Creatures, how they have improved the Time and Talents which he graciously gives to Men, in a Day of merciful Visitation, to the End that we might be brought to the Knowledge of him, and of our selves, what poor nothing creatures we are without him: For our Life and Breath is in his Hand, according to the holy Apostle, *Acts 17. 28. For in him we live, and move, and have our Being.*

Oh! therefore let me, in the Love of Christ, prevail with you, to hearken to the Voice of Wisdom, and incline your Minds to learn her ways; *For her Ways are Ways of Pleasantness, and all her Paths are Peace:* Again, there is this great Advantage accrueth to those who are thus exercised, in remembring their Creator in the Prime of their Youth, that the Lord is graciously pleased to manifest himself, in the Spirit and Appearance of his dear Son, to be a God at hand to such, and by his Light to discover the Designs of the Soul's Enemy: and to

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deliver them from the Snares which he lays in secret to intangle and intrap their poor Souls; therefore, dear Children, watch diligently in the Light, that you may see the Folly and Iniquity of youthful Vanity, that the Enemy tempts to, and prevails over those whose Minds he affects with a Delight in the glittering Gaities, fantastick and foolish vain Fashions of this World, as also in vain and foolish Talking and Jestings, and despising Vertue and the Way of the daily Cross, and pleasing themselves in Excesses in divers respects, which make up the Conversation of too many, of those who have had the Advantage of a sober and religious Education, the Sense of which, and the dismal Consequence of such Ingratitude and Disobedience, both to God and their tender Parents, hath deeply affected my Heart with Sorrow, and my Spirit with Grief; and many times hath my Soul been deeply bowed before the Lord, because of this great Iniquity.

And you, to whose hands this may come, who are concerned in such an evil Course of Life, or in any part of it, I am concerned in the Love of Christ, and in his Name, to call upon you, to turn unto the Lord by Repentance, for you have neglected the Day of your Visitation, and stopt your Ears to his Reproofs, by walking in a Way that is not good, in a Forgetfulness of God; therefore I say again, turn ye, turn ye every one from the Evil of your Ways, and from the Iniquity of your Doings; For what should you persist any longer therein, to the Dishonour of God, and to your own Destruction.

My Soul mourns for you, and earnestly desires your Return to the Lord, and that you may yet take heed to the Reproofs of his holy Spirit, and yield Obedience in Sincerity of Heart thereunto, that the Lord may be graciously pleased to favour you with his Help: And I have this Word of Encouragement, in a Spring of divine Love from God, to you, that there is yet Mercy with him, that he may be feared, therefore, as saith the holy Apostle, so am I concerned to say to you, *To day, while it is called to day, if you will hear his Voice, barden not your Hearts,* *Mat. 23.*

Oh! saith my Soul, that you may no longer indulge your selves in those hurtful Lusts, which defile the Soul, and incurs the Displeasure of God, lest you die in your Sins; and you should consider the miserable Consequence, of dying in such a State of Impenitency, according to the Words of our blessed Lord, *Whither I go, you cannot come:* Oh dismal State! Oh wretched and unretrievable Condition! Oh! therefore neglect not the present time; but while the Lord, by his holy Spirit, strives with you, may the Sense of your starving Condition (though possibly some of you may live in abundant Affluence of transitory Injoyments) take hold upon your Minds, that with the Prodigal in the Parable, you may come to this Resolve, and consider with him, *How many hired Servants in my Father's House have Bread enough and to spare, and I perish for hangar; I will return* (Oh happy Resolution!) *and say, in Humility, Reverence and Fear, I have sinned, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son; make me as one of thy*

hired-Servants. Oh! when once the Soul of a Prodigal is touched with a Sense of his Loss, by reason of Excess, Liberty, and loving to be at his own Dispose, without Controul, and to get a great way off, at a far Distance from the House and Family of the Father, that he might not meet with any Rebukes, either from the Master, or be under the Observation of any of the Family, not considering, alas! that the Eye of the Master, the great Lord and Father of the Family, is omniscient, and beholds not only Actions, but also Words, and the most secret Thoughts and Purposes of the Heart, unto whom all Men are accountable: I say, when once a true Sense of Disobedience and Ingratitude takes hold of the Prodigal, Oh! then what humble Submission, by Acknowledgement of Disobedience and Ingratitude, and therefore Unworthiness of being called a Son; Oh! then any low Place, no matter how mean, so it be within the Verge of the House, within the Compass of the Blessing, that the Family partakes of, so that I may share with them, in that Bread which truly nourisheth the Soul, and keeps living to God.

Now this being the Effect of a tender and most compassionate Visitation from God, through Jesus Christ, renewed to such who by Disobedience, in a strong Will out of the Fear of God, have turned their Backs and stoppt their Ears to his Reproofs, and by indulging themselves in a false Liberty, in the divers Lusts and sinful Pleasures which are in the World, have defiled themselves, and thereby greatly offended the righteous and gracious good God; who

in his Long-suffering and Forbearance hath waited their Return, who in his Justice might have cut them off in their Sins; but in his Mercy he repeats his Visits and Calls again, and again, as it is written, *Joh 33. 14, 15, 16, 17. He speaks once, yea twice;—in a Dream, in a Vision of the Night;—then he openeth the Ears of Men, and sealeth their Instruction; that he may withdraw Man from his Purpose, and hide Pride from Man:* And many, yea very many more Instances might I give from holy Scripture, whereby to evince and demonstrate the merciful Kindness and Forbearance of God, towards the Children of Men.

But to proceed; as this tender Visitation takes hold upon the Prodigal, and he comes to be awakened thereby, to a Sense of his great Loss, and to see what a deplorable State of Misery he hath reduced himself to, by departing from the Counsel of the Lord, and going out of the true Fear; and (being pinched) feeling the Smart of his Wound, and, thereby recovering his Senses in some measure, and remembering the Father's House, and the abundant Blessings, which were the Injoyments of the least in the Family, saying, *How many hired Servants in my Father's House have Bread enough, and to spare, and I perish for hunger?* And with earnest and sincere Desires of returning thither, that, if possible, he might be admitted again into some degree of Favour, at least so far as a Servant's Place in the House, though never so mean, so it were but in the Family, within the Compass of the Blessing; whereupon he comes to this Resolve, saying, *I will return to my Father, and I*

will say, *I am no more worthy to be called thy Son.* (Oh! no, for by my Folly and Rashness, leaning to my own Understanding, I have run into many Extravagancies, and spent my Portion, and forfeited my Interest with thee; but thou art merciful, of which thou hast given me a fresh Instance, in touching my Heart with a Sense of my great Ingratitude, and Undutifulness towards thee, otherways I must have perished; but by this fresh Glance of thy Favour I am encouraged to return: Oh, therefore I come as a poor Beggar, in a Sense of my own Unworthiness, of claiming the Favour of a Son) *make me as one of thy hired Servants,* Luke 15. And upon these Considerations sets out upon his Travel, in deep Humility and Fear, turning his Back upon his vicious Companions, amongst whom he had spent his Portion, in Excess and Riot, and his Face towards the Father's House again; and the tender Father, lifting up his Eyes, and beheld him coming, though afar off, ran to meet him, and fell upon his Neck and kissed him.

Oh! How admirable is his Love and tender Compassion towards true Penitents, sincere Returning Prodigals, in that he doth not leave them in their Return, to encounter those Difficulties, which they may meet with in their Way, but is graciously pleased to stretch forth his Hand for their Help and Encouragement, in this Travel; for he ran to meet him, and fell upon his Neck, and kissed him: This is strengthening indeed, beyond comparison; what Tongue or Pen can set forth the Excellency of his loving Kindness, towards Returning Sinners! May the

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true Sense thereof take deep Impression upon your Hearts; so as that you may truly prize the present Time, by laying hold of that Help, which is offered you of God in Jesus Christ, who, by his holy Spirit, hath long waited at the Door of your Hearts, and knocked by his Reproofs for an Entrance; may you be so happy as to hearken to his Voice, and open unto him; then would he come in unto you, and Sup with you, and you with him.

Oh! that you may be prevailed upon, before it be too late, weightily to consider these things, wherein your Soul's Peace is so eminently concerned, and lay them truly to Heart, that you may truly witness his Help, in returning to him by true and unfeigned Repentance, and Amendment of Life. The Lord, I humbly beseech him, so to influence your Hearts with divine Wisdom, (and that you may diligently attend his Teaching thereby) as that you may persevere in this most necessary Travel, until you attain those unspeakable Blessings, set forth in this Golden Parable, by the *best Robe*, the *Ring*, and the *fatted Calf*, which you will undoubtedly do, as you hear Christ's Voice; who, as above, knocks at the Door of your Hearts, and let him in, so may you partake with the Faithful, in the blessed Communion and holy Fellowship, with the Saints in Light, where the Bread of Life is broken, and the Wine of the Kingdom freely distributed, to them that walk in the Light of the Lord, who desires not the Death of a Sinner; but rather that they might *repent and live*; who, by his Prophet, called unto *Israel*, saying,

gentish vision, day of the Lord, Turn

Turn you, turn you, why will you die, O House of Israel!

So am I concerned in Bowels of tender Love, in the Fear of the Lord, to call upon you, to invite and intreat you to return unto the Lord, whilst he strives with you by his holy Spirit, and come to the Light, which ye have been brought up under the Profession of, and walk in it, as God is in it, 1 *John* 1. ver. 7. then shall you witness to your Souls unspeakable Comfort, that blessed Unity and sweet Fellowship, which his redeemed Ones partake of, *Walking in the Light, as God is in the Light and the Blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth them from all Sin.*

Oh! therefore be ye encouraged to attend diligently to the Voice of the Word, and let the Time past suffice, *Psal.* 119. ver. 9. which you have mispent in the Lust and sinful Pleasures of this perishing World: And now double your Diligence, in waiting upon the Lord, in deep Humility, as with Lips in the Dust, that you may feel a Measure of the true Hope to spring in your Hearts towards God, and patiently wait therein for his Salvation in Jesus Christ, (*Lam.* Chap. 3. ver. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.) *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar People, zealous of good Works, Tit.* 2. 14. Amen, saith my Soul, that your Lot may be amongst the Redeemed, Cleansed, and Sanctified Ones.

And now, you, dear Children, who have been preserved in a good degree, in the way of your Duty, both towards God and your Parents, my Love in the Truth salutes you, greatly desiring

your Preservation and Perseverance therein; and that the Blessing of the Lord may be your Portion, who is not unmindful of you; but as he remembred *Joseph* under all his deep Exercises, Temptations and Afflictions, and delivered him: And as he kept in the fear of the God of his Father *Jacob*, he was preserved from sinning against him, and was delivered from the Temptations of his Mistress, and also from her mischievous Designs against him, and in his Favour the Lord axalted him over all his Enemies, and made him Ruler over *Egypt's* Land.

And likewise *Jabez*, of whom it is said, *1 Chron. 4. 9, 10.* that he *was more honourable than his Brethren*: And he called on the God of *Israel*, saying, *Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed! and enlarge my Coast, and that thine Hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from Evil, that it may not grieve me. And God granted him that which he requested.*

Many more Instances I might give, of such as are mentioned in holy Writ, who remembred their Creator in the Days of their Youth, and that loved, feared and obeyed him from the Heart, as *Samuel, David, Solomon, John Baptist* and *Timothy*, &c. And the Lord was with them, and blessed them exceedingly, and stopped not his Ear to the Voice of their Supplication, but granted them the humble Petitions of their Souls, even the Joy of his Salvation.

And, my dear Friends, that you may come to witness, in your own Experience more and more, through the Work of divine Grace in your Hearts, the Benefit and unspeakable Comforts of the holy Spirit, by the sweet Incomes of

divine Love, refreshing and strengthening you in the Way of your Duty, that you may grow up before him as *Calves in the Stall, and as Willows by the Water Courses*; and that your Leaf may be ever green, and that the celestial Dew may rest upon your Spirits, and that you may flourish as the Rose in *S Sharon*, and as the Lillies in the Valley, sending forth a pleasant Smell.

Oh! tha you may be preserved in a living Sense of divine Truth, so that you may hold forth the Profession of your Faith in a clean and upright Conversation, that you may be the Sons and Daughters of God without Rebuke, in the midst of a wicked and perverse Generation, amongst whom you walk, standing in a true Testimony for God, faithful unto him in the several Branches of it in your Day; so may you grow up through the gradual Work of Truth, in Wisdom and Knowledge, and thereby be fitted for that Service which the Lord may have for you in his Church, that as the Ancients are removed, you may come up in their Places, in a living Testimony and Service for God in his Church, and serve up your Generation in Faithfulness to God, as the faithful Elders have done; so may the Blessing, promised of God of old unto his People, be your Inheritance, *Isa. 44. 3, 4.* where he saith, in the Name of the Lord, *I will pour Water upon him that is thirsty, and Floods upon the dry Ground: I will pour my Spirit upon thy Seed, and my Blessing upon thine Offspring. And they shall spring up as among the Grass as Willows by the Water Courses.*

There are many precious Promises to the Seed, and to the Seed's Seed, for the Inccouragement of

the Lord's People unto Faithfulness and Diligence in his Work and Service; and he that hath promised is faithful and true, and never fails them that put their Trust in him: Therefore, my dear Friends, let the Advice of the wise Man be weightily considered and rightly applied, *Prov. 3. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. My Son forget not my Law, but let thine Heart keep my Commandments: For length of Days, and long Life, and Peace shall they add to thee. Let not Mercy and Truth forsake thee: Bind them about thy Neck, write them upon the Table of thine Heart. So shalt thou find Favour, and good Understanding in the sight of God and Man. Trust in the Lord with all thine Heart: and lean not to thine own Understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy Paths.* My dear Friends, Let these things be well considered in the same Love in which they are recommended, and with the Advice of the holy Apostle to Perseverance. I shall conclude this Head, *Heb. 12. 1, 2, 3. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a Cloud of Witnesses, let us lay aside every Weight, and the Sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with Patience the Race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith, who for the Joy that was set before him, endured the Cross, despising the Shame, and is set down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God. For consider him that endured such Contradiction of Sinners, against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your Minds: And let us not be weary in well doing, and in due time we shall Reap, if we faint not.*

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And to you, my Friends, whom the Lord hath been pleased graciously to call out of the World, is my Spirit deeply concerned in the Love of Christ, that you may truly prize the Mercy and tender Love of God in Christ Jesus towards you, in visiting of you by his Light and Truth, which he hath graciously sent forth in our Day, as of old, blessed be his holy Name for evermore, who hath not left us destitute of his tender Mercies; for in the Dispensation of his dear Son, is he visiting the Children of Men by his Day springing from on high, to the end that all Men might be brought to the Knowledge of the Truth, and be saved. Therefore be ye humbled before the Lord, and be truly thankful unto him, for that the divine Reaches of his Love have taken hold upon your Spirits: And be diligent in waiting upon the Lord, that you may be acquainted with his (Christ's) Voice, and know a being taught of him, who is graciously pleased in this the Day of his Love and Spiritual Appearance, as in the Days of his Flesh: See *Mat. 11. 28, 29.* in Bowels of tender Compassion to invite those that Labour under a Sense of the Burden of Sin to come unto him and learn of him: And for the encouragement of those that hear his Voice, and receive his most compassionate Invitation, and come unto him, he saith, *And I will give him rest, saying Take my Yoke upon you, and learn of me, for my Yoke is easy, and my Burden is light, and you shall find Rest and Peace to your Souls:* And again *John 8. 31, 32.* Then said Jesus, to those Jews which believed on him, *If you continue in my Word then are ye my Disciples indeed. And ye shall know*

the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free. Oh
the unsearchable Riches of his Love to poor lost
Man; How can we think upon and consider
rightly of these things without great Humilia-
tion and Contrition, with thankful Acknow-
ledgments to him for these super-abundant Ble-
ssings which our most gracious God and blessed
Redeemer is pleased to reveal for the Help of
them, who in Humility and Fear diligently
seek him in this his blessed Day; for these wit-
ness him to be unto them a God nigh at hand,
to save them from the Power of the Enemy, and
he satisfieth their Souls in Drought: For, as saith
the holy Prophet, *Isa. 40. 10, 11. Behold, the
Lord God will come with strong Hand, and his
Arm shall rule for him: Behold, his Reward is with
him, and his Work before him. He shall feed his
Flock like a Shepherd: he shall gather his Lambs
with his Arm, and carry them in his Bosom, and
shall gently lead those that are with young. And
again the same Prophet saith, Chap. 49. 10.
They shall not hunger nor thirst, neither shall the
Heat of the Sun smite them: for he that hath Mercy
on them shall lead them, even by the Springs of Wa-
ter shall he guide them. And ver. 12. 13. Behold,
these shall come from far, and lo, these from the
North, and from the West, &c. Sing, O Heavens,
and be joyful, O Earth, and break forth into Sing-
ing, O Mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his
People, and will have Mercy upon his Afflicted.*
By all which is set forth as in a Figure the
great Care and tender Compassion of Christ, the
true Shepherd of the Sheep, in feeding them in
luscious Pasture, and in carrying the Lambs in
his Bosom of divine Love, that they may be

nourished and strengthened to follow him, who thus sheweth Mercy to them, in carrying them and giving them Ability to travel, and by partaking of the sincere Milk of the Word in the Bosom of divine Love, they increase in Strength, and still waiting for him, and keeping under his Conduct, even the Guidance of his holy Spirit, he is graciously pleased to lead them to the Fountain of Springs (where true Refreshment is witnessed by the sincere Traveller) to the end that they might grow stronger and stronger, as all his Sheep most certainly do, for they hearken diligently to his (Christ's) Voice, and they follow him, and he giveth unto them eternal Life; these being redeemed from the Power of the Enemy, the Stranger, and his Voice they will not follow; altho' he should be suffered to appear as an Angel of Light, they keeping in the true Simplicity with an Eye singly unto Jesus Christ, the true Shepherd, and their Ear open to his Voice, the Voice of Truth in the Soul, he by his transcendent Light gives them a clear Discerning, and by his holy Spirit distinguishes between the Voice of the true Shepherd, and that of the Stranger, they will not follow him, but keeping under the Power and Protection of the strong Hand and Arm of this mighty Shepherd, whose Arm shall rule for him, they are saved thereby, whose Reward is with him, and his Work before him, and his redeemed ones rejoice in it, as they behold him (with an Eye of Faith) the mighty one, going on in the Greatness of his Strength, conquering, and to conquer both his and his Church's Enemies, by the Breath of his Mouth, and by the Brightness of his Appearing;

for out of his Mouth goeth a sharp two edged Sword, and his Name is called the *Word of God*; and the Armies which are in Heaven follow him.

Therefore be ye encouraged in the Way of your Duty, waiting diligently upon the Lord, that your Strength may be renewed in him, who is not unmindful of your Exercises, which you may meet with in the Course of your Travel, whether from the Enemy within, or Enemies without; wherefore faint not in your Minds, because of the Frowns of Men, whether near Relations, or former Acquaintance, amongst whom you have had your Conversation in times past, wherein they may think it strange, that you cannot now run with them, into the same Vanities and Excesses, as heretofore possibly some of you may have done: But you having now met with Jesus, or rather that he hath met with you, and he hath opened your Understandings, in those things which relate to your Duty towards God, and your Souls true Peace with him, and you are given to see, that the Way to attain so great a Blessing is to learn of Christ, and therefore are made willing to deny your selves, of all those things in the World that hinder you from attending his Teaching, and to take up the Cross and follow Christ, in the Way which he leads his Disciples, in which is the Way of Holiness, which God hath cast up for his Ransomed to walk in, by which all the Called of God, as they take heed thereto, witness this blessed Change; so that they cannot have any Fellowship with the unfruitful Works of Darknes, but are rather

concerned to reprove them, blessed, praised and magnified be the Name of the Lord for ever : Who in our Day is pleased to make known his Way on Earth, and his saving Health unto the Nations, and is raising up the Tabernacle of his beloved *David*, to the end *that the Residue of Men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom my Name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things, Acts 15. 16, 17.* Who is gracious and merciful, abundant in Goodness and Truth, to all them that diligently, in Sincerity of Heart, wait upon him in a living Sense of their own Nothingness, looking unto him for Help daily, who said, *Without me you can do nothing.*

And thus, my Friends, as you keep under the daily Exercise of the Cross of Christ, you will know the Power of it to crucifie you to the World, with those divers Lusts and vile Affections which are therein, and the World to you; and hereby you may witness in your Measures the Truth of that Saying of the holy Apostle, *Gal. 2. 20.* where he saith, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: And the Life which I now live in the Flesh, I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Therefore mind your Guide in all your Actions, bringing your Deeds to the Light, lest the Enemy beguile any of you by Subtilty, but by the Light he is discovered, and his Snares are ever seen, and escaped by those that walk therein: For although his Transformations are many, and he may be suffered at times to appear as an Angel of Light, yet such is the Excellency of

the true Light, that it pierceth through all, and discovereth the most subtle Workings and Intreagues of Satan, unto them who abide in it, watching unto Prayer.

The Lord, who hath called us by his Grace, is not unmindful of us, but his Ear is open to the Cries of his Little-Ones, the Poor in Spirit, whose Breathings in Spirit are unto him for Help: I say, the Lord is pleased to arise in his Power for their Deliverance, from the Power of the Oppressor, and will give Victory to all those who in Faith and Patience wait upon him, and for his Appearing, who is the mighty Saviour, *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all Iniquity, and purifie unto himself a peculiar People, zealous of good Works,* Tit. 2. 14.

Therefore, my Friends, be diligent, be patient, meek and lowly in your Minds, waiting upon God in true Silence, the Silence of all Flesh, that you may be capable of hearing him, who is graciously pleased to condescend to speak unto us, in this our Day, by the Spirit of his dear Son, and thereby to teach and instruct his Little-Ones in the Way of Righteousness, that they may inherit Peace; for the *Fruit of Righteousness is Peace, and the Effect thereof is Quietness and Assurance for ever.*

Wherefore, my Friends, as you have believed in him, the Holy One, and from him received the Anointing, keep to it, and retain it, and let it never depart from it, that you may witness, in your own Experience, the Truth of that Testimony, only which the Apostle gave concerning it, as *John 2. 27, 28, 29. But the Anointing, which ye have received of him, abideth in you: And ye*

need not that any Man teach you: But, as the same Anointing teacheth you of all things, and is Truth, and is no Lie: and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. And now, little Children, abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have Confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his Coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doth Righteousness is born of him.

And, my Friends, for your Furtherance in this good Work, I tenderly exhort you to Diligence in Reading the holy Scriptures, in a reverent and awful Mind, with an Eye singly to the Lord, that the Assistance of his good Spirit you may feel to open your Understandings, that in Reading you may understand the Scriptures to your Edification and Comfort; for it is the Inspiration of the Almighty that giveth Understanding, Job 32. 8.

And more particularly, as pertinent to your States, I recommend the Afflictions, Trials and Sufferings of Joseph, in his youthful Time from his Brethren, and also in the Land of Egypt, where the Lord was with him, and wrought Deliverance for him, set forth in Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41. Chapters: And also the many Trials and sore Besetments which David met with in his Time, and how he lookt to the Lord through them all, and how that he was graciously pleased to work his Deliverance, and gave him plentifully to partake of his Salvation, set forth in the Book of Psalms, also the first nine Chapters of the Proverbs of Solomon, and his Ecclesiastes: And likewise that most excellent Sermon of our blessed Lord upon the Mount, set forth in Matthew, Chapter 5, 6, 7. And all

the three first Chapters of the holy Apostle Paul's Second Epistle to Timothy. And the Lord give you Understanding, that you may grow in Grace, and in the Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But shun vain Babbling, and prophane and lascivious Books and Pamphlets, which tend to the stirring up a vain Mind, and are very pernicious to Youth, who spend their pretious time in Reading and Conversing about them, with others to their great Prejudice, corrupting their Minds, and alienating them from the Love of Vertue, and will increase to more Ungodliness; therefore I warn all young People, to whose hands this may come, to avoid all such things as *Play Books*, &c. as they prize the Peace and Velfare of their never dying Souls.

So, my dear Friends, in the same Love, in which I have been drawn in my Spirit thus to visit you with these Lines, I shall conclude, wishing and sincerely desiring, that Grace, Mercy and Peace from God and our Lord Jesus Christ may be with you all, Amen.

Given forth in Obedience to the Lord, by one of the least of his Servants, who travels for the Peace of Sion, with earnest Desires that all that, whatsoever it be, that sullies her Beauty, may be wiped off and done away, and that Jerusalem may be made an eternal Excellency, the Praise of the whole Earth.

1st Month,

1720.

George Bayle

John F. Harding
His Book 1791

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